THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) An additional cadet strength of 50,000 for the period between 1991 to 1996 has been sanctioned by the Government at the rate of 10,000 cadets per year. The proposed increase in the cadet strength for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 has been allocated to NCC Directorates for extending the NCC coverage to new educational institutions.

Based on the recommendations of the High Powered Evaluation Committee, Government has revised the aims and training syllabus of NCC, updated the training aids, and increased the number of vacancies in Attachment Courses and National Integration Camps.

No proposal for further expansion and strengthening of NCC is under consideration of the Government at present.

Flight from Ahmedabad to Nairobi

*232. SHRI CHHOTUBHAI PATEL:
SHRI JAGESH DESAI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to start a direct flight from Ahmedabad to Nairobi;

(b) whether the alternate suggestion of originating one of the existing flights between Bombay and Nairobi from Ahmedabad has been examined; and

(c) if so, what is the decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Direct flight between Ahmedabad and Nairobi was not found feasible due to inadequate traffic.

Investment in Pharmaceutical Industry

*233. SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total investment in pharmaceutical industry and what is the rate of growth during last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline over the years in percentage growth of production and formulations;

(c) what was the profitability in this industry in 1967-68 and as on date;

(d) whether it is a fact that due to decline in profit, industrialist-investors rate of growth and formulations have gone down;

(e) whether it is a fact that prices of drugs have increased, if so, what is the percentage of increase; and

(f) whether the drug industry has been asking for delicencing and decontrol and what are the implications of such demand indicating its negative and positive aspects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The total investment in pharmaceutical industry in the organised sector is about Rs. 1000 crores. On the basis of industrial approvals granted during the last 3 years, the percentage growth in investment indications over the previous year was 53% in 1991 and 44% in 1992.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to the Hathi Committee Report the Industry as an average was making gross profit of 15.47% on the net sales in 1969-70. This profitability of industry also included non-drug activities of the companies in this industry. The Gross Profit as percentage of net sales of 23 major companies in the industry relating to their drug and formulation activities only as reported by the companies varied from (−) 1.8% to 16.7% in 1991-92.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. The increase in 1990-91 over the previous year was 6.6 percent and in 1991-92 over the year 1990-91 was 6.8 percent.

(f) Yes, Sir. A Background Note for discussion on the Review of Drug Policy, 1986 has been laid on the Table of the House on 12-8-92.

Seniority Principle in Appointments

*234. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that seniority principle in the matter of top-most bureaucratic appointments has not been strictly followed in recent times;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have been following an informal fast tract

approach to such senior bureaucratic posts; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) Appointments to top-most bureaucratic position in the Government of India rare made through a process of strict selection on the basis of merit, competence, leadership and flair for participating in the policy-making process with due regard given to seniority.

*235. [*Transferred to 24 August, 1993*]

Task Force for identification of Wasteland

*236. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a task force to identify the waste land available for development;

(b) if so, what are the objectives of the proposed task force in addition to finding out the availability of waste land;

(c) whether Government propose to mobilise investment from Corporate sectors and financial institutions for development of waste land; and

(d) whether any discussions were held with the above institutions and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT) (COL. RAO RAM SINGH): (a) The Government have Constituted on 25th May, 1993 a Task Force for the resolution of Policy issues regarding Government/Community/Panchayat/Private wastelands.

(b) The Task Force will examine various aspects relating to Government/Community/Panchayat/Private wastelands in non-forest areas and make recommendations for formulating appropriate Policy Guidelines regarding availability and their utilisation for sustainable development. Moreover, the Committee will specifically consider the legislative/procedural measures regulating utilisation of Government/Community/Panchayat wastelands in non-forest areas and questions relating to their availability for periods appropriate for their development and use of different types of land based activities including the terms and conditions and safeguards necessary for protecting the interests of local communities particularly members of the weaker sections of society.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Discussions with financial institutions are ongoing and will remain a continous process. Discussions relate to implementation of the scheme of Margin Money Assistance under which central assistance was available for tree plantation/afforestation through the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) to the public sector Undertakings/Companies/Individuals etc. The funding pattern provided for, envisaged atleast 50% of the project cost as bank loan and the balance to be equally shared between National Wasteland Development Board (NWDB) and the promotor agency, restricting National Wasteland Development Board's share upto 25% of the project cost. The scheme is now under revision in view of the suggestions received by the Department so far.

Violation of Statutory Provisions by Companies

*237. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies which violated the statutory provisions by making investments and loans in excess of permitted limits in the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the names of the companies and the nature of violation together with their details;

(c) whether any legal action has been initiated in the past against these companies, if so, the details thereof indicating the stage in which the case is presently pending and also the date on which the action has been initiated; and

(d) what steps are taken to see that such violations do not take place in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The information received so far is contained in the enclosed Statement.

(d) Prosecution proceedings are launched. This has deterrent effect.